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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/010,591	11/09/2001	Manfred Bartz	CYPR-CD01163M	4354
7590	06/15/2004		EXAMINER	
WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP			NGUYEN, ANH T	
Third Floor			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Two North Market Street				2174
San Jose, CA 95113				

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/010,591	BARTZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anh T Nguyen	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 November 2001.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

1. The oath or declaration is missing. A properly signed oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63, identifying the application by the above Application Number and Filing Date is required.

(a) An oath or declaration filed under § 1.51(b)(2) as a part of a nonprovisional application must:

(1) Be executed, i.e., signed, in accordance with either § 1.66 or § 1.68. There is no minimum age for a person to be qualified to sign, but the person must be competent to sign, i.e., understand the document that the person is signing;

(2) Identify each inventor by full name, including the family name, and at least one given name without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial;

(3) Identify the country of citizenship of each inventor; and

(4) State that the person making the oath or declaration believes the named inventor or inventors to be the original and first inventor or inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

(b) In addition to meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section, the oath or declaration must also:

(1) Identify the application to which it is directed;

(2) State that the person making the oath or declaration has reviewed and understands the contents of the application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to in the oath or declaration; and

(3) State that the person making the oath or declaration acknowledges the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

(c) Unless such information is supplied on an application data sheet in accordance with §1.76, the oath or declaration must also identify:

(1) The mailing address, and the residence if an inventor lives at a location which is different from where the inventor customarily receives mail, of each inventor; and

(2) Any foreign application for patent (or inventor's certificate) for which a claim for priority is made pursuant to § 1.55, and any foreign application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed, by specifying the application number, country, day, month, and year of its filing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-4, 7-114, 17-24, 27-33, and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fernandes (US 6,014,135).

As per claim 1, Fernandes teaches a method of helping a user perform tasks in software, said method comprising: rendering a first plurality of graphic elements and a second plurality of graphic elements, wherein said first and second plurality of elements are visibly displayed regardless of which task is being performed and wherein an element is either active or inactive, wherein user selection of an element with said element active initiates an action in response to said selection while user selection of said element with said element inactive does not initiate said action (Fig.3, col.10, lines 6-32, *plurality of first icons 40(A-C), plurality of second icons 42(A-B)*);

activating a first portion of said first plurality of graphic elements, and activating a second portion of said second plurality of graphic elements in response to user selection of an element from said first plurality of graphic elements, wherein said tasks are to be performed in a logical order and wherein said second portion is selectively activated to guide said user through said tasks according to said logical order (Fig.3, col.10, lines 32-47, *icon activated*) .

As per claim 2, Fernandes teaches wherein said first plurality of graphic elements comprises elements that are active regardless of which task is being performed (Fig.3, col.8, lines 29-34, *displaying icons*).

As per claim 3, Fernandes teaches wherein elements in said first portion are selectively activated to guide said user through said tasks according to said logical order (Fig.3, col.10, lines 35-45).

As per claim 4, Fernandes teaches wherein elements in said second portion are activated in response to user selection of an element from said first portion (Fig.3, col.10, lines 35-45).

As per claim 7, Fernandes discloses said first and second plurality of graphic elements comprises icons organized in a first toolbar and said second plurality of graphic elements comprises icons organized in a second toolbar (Fig. 3, col.3, lines 6-17, *toolbars or smart icons*).

As per claim 8, Fernandes teaches wherein said first and second plurality of graphic elements are displayed in an order corresponding to said logical order (Fig.3, col.10, lines 6-32, *plurality of first icons 40(A-C), plurality of second icons 42(A-B)*).

As per claim 9, Fernandes teaches wherein selected windows are displayed in response to user selection of an element (Fig.4, col.10, lines 50-65, *display 50 changes to another display in response to user selection*).

As per claim 10, Fernandes teaches wherein a first element for a first task and a second element for a second task are active at the same time, wherein according to said logical order there are intervening tasks between said first and second tasks, and wherein movement between said first task and said second task is accomplished without movement through said intervening tasks in response to user selection of said first and second elements (col.12, lines 51-67, *collaborative voting*).

Claims 11-14 and 21-24 are similar in scope to claim 1-4, respectively, and therefore are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 17-20 and 27-30 are similar in scope to claim 7-10, respectively, and therefore are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 31-33 are similar in scope to claims 1-3, respectively, and therefore are rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 35-37 are similar in scope to claims 7-9, respectively, and therefore are rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5-6, 15-16, 25-26, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fernandes (US 6,014,135) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA").

As per claims 5-6, while Fernandes teaches the method of helping a user perform tasks in software, Fernandes does not specifically teach wherein said tasks comprise tasks for designing a microcontroller and wherein said microcontroller is designed according to a programmable single-chip architecture. "AA PA" discloses the use of tasks in designing a microcontroller and wherein said microcontroller is designed according to programmable single-chip architecture. (page 2, lines 6-20; page 4, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Bartz from "AAPA" with the teaching of Fernandes because it simplifies and facilitates microcontroller design by making the process more intuitive and easier to use by representing tasks as graphical elements.

Claims 15-16 and 25-26 are similar in scope to claims 5-6, respectively, and therefore are rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 35 is similar in scope to claim 6, and therefore is rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fernandes (US 6,014,135) teaches collaboration centric document processing environment using information centric visual user interface and information presentation method.

Mayhew et al. (US 6,239,800) teaches method and apparatus for leading a user through a software installation procedure via interaction with displayed graphs.

Lau et al. (US 5,905,496) teaches workflow product navigation system.

Kenny et al. (US 6,121,965) teaches user interface for graphical application tool.

Lanier et al. (US 5,588,104) teaches method and apparatus for creating virtual worlds using data flow network.

Okita et al. (US 6,225,998) teaches visual design of workflows.

Inquiries

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8649. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm (EST). The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Anh T Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 2174

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100